

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service	)	
	)	
Request for Comments on Certain of the Commission's Rules Relating to High-Cost Universal Service Support	)	CC Docket No. 96-45
	)	

**REPLY COMMENTS OF THE MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL**

The Montana Consumer Counsel, established by Article XIII, Section 2 of the 1972 Montana Constitution, is the agency of the State of Montana that has the duty to represent public utility consumer interests before the Montana Public Service Commission and state and federal courts and administrative agencies. The Montana Consumer Counsel files these reply comments in the above-captioned proceeding on behalf of consumers of telecommunications services in Montana.

The Montana Consumer Counsel has reviewed the reply comments filed today by the Montana Public Service Commission. The Montana Consumer Counsel agrees with and supports the reply comments of the Montana Commission.

Respectfully submitted October 31, 2005.

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